



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DACS-SF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
200 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

6 OCT 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Safety and the Army Ergonomics Program

1. Musculoskeletal disorders are now recognized as one of the leading causes of injury to Army employees. These costly disorders, which frequently have a negative effect on employee morale, are often preventable through an effective application of ergonomics principles.
2. The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM) manages the Army Ergonomics Program (AEP) with active support from Army Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) professionals. Since the science of ergonomics crosses the traditional boundaries between safety and preventive medicine programs, effective implementation of the AEP requires intensive cross-boundary cooperation to ensure that the program is both proactive and effective.
3. I fully support the application of ergonomics principles into Army worksites. Army SOH professionals are well-positioned and experienced to assist preventive medicine professionals to integrate the AEP into existing Army programs. Working together, we can help reduce the growing Army costs and losses due to musculoskeletal disorders.
4. The following sources of information may assist commanders in reducing ergonomic related injuries and illnesses.
 - a. Final draft of DOD Instruction (DODI) 6055.1, DOD Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Program, provides DOD ergonomic requirements and procedures. This DODI forms the foundation for AR 385-10, Army Safety Program. The DODI mandates a written program that addresses the six critical elements for ergonomics intervention:

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- (1) Workplace analysis
- (2) Hazard prevention and control
- (3) Health care management
- (4) Education and training
- (5) Program evaluation and review
- (6) Acquisition

b. NIOSH Elements of Ergonomics Programs is a primer based on workplace evaluations of musculoskeletal disorders. A copy may be downloaded from <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ephome2.html>.

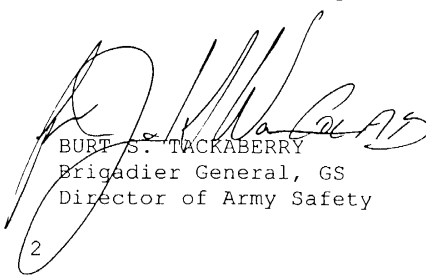
c. DOD Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program is a centrally funded DOD program that provides technological assistance allowing DOD employees with disabilities to access computer and telecommunication systems.

d. The Surgeon General is the Army proponent for ergonomics. USACHPPM manages the AEP and provides assistance upon request.

e. The vast number of Internet resources may be located by using various Internet search engines. The following sites may prove useful in beginning your search:

- (1) <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ergopage.html>
- (2) <http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/office.html>
- (3) <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ens/sh/60551.doc>

5. Point of contact for this action is Mr. Truman Taylor at DSN 558-2609.



BURT S. TACKABERRY
Brigadier General, GS
Director of Army Safety

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